



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Arizona State Office  
One North Central Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85004  
[www.az.blm.gov](http://www.az.blm.gov)



In Reply Refer To:  
6840 (932) P

November 4, 2005

EMS TRANSMISSION: 11/04/05  
Instruction Memorandum No. AZ-2006-002, Change 1  
Expires: 09/30/2007

To: All Field Offices

From: State Director

Subject: Updated BLM Sensitive Species List for Arizona

DD: 09/30/2006

**Purpose:** This IM is re-issued due to changes made to the expiration and due dates. The purpose of this Instruction Memorandum is to identify the sensitive plant and animal species on Bureau of Land Management (BLM)-administered lands in Arizona in compliance with Manual Section 6840.

**Background:** Attached is the updated Arizona BLM Sensitive Species List. Changes from the 2000 list include deletions of several species of plants peripheral to the State and addition of some endemics. The plant changes resulted from coordination among agencies, academia, and nongovernmental organizations. Animal deletions primarily had to do with eliminating some duplicates that are now on the Wildlife of Special Concern in Arizona (WSC) list maintained by Arizona Game and Fish Department, and deleting some peripheral species that do not breed in Arizona and have plenty of available wintering habitats in Arizona. Additional coordination with Arizona BLM biologists and botanists was elicited in the development of the updated list between February 22, 2005, and June 10, 2005, and additional information and input came from a sensitive species committee led by the U.S. Forest Service Regional Office in Albuquerque.

The Tucson shovel nosed snake and flannel mouth sucker are added because they meet the criteria, appear on no other lists, and are receiving increased scrutiny and concern for their status among the conservation public and academia. Relatively few animals are included on our sensitive list because the WSC list is rather expansive.

Guidance for management related to BLM sensitive species is found in Manual Section 6840. Criteria for BLM Sensitive Species (Manual Section 6840) include those that are:

1. Under status review by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/National Marine Fisheries Service; or
2. Whose numbers are declining so rapidly that Federal listing may become necessary; or

3. With typically small and widely dispersed populations; or
4. Those inhabiting ecological refugia or other specialized or unique habitats.

Some bats with roost site protection problems were not included on the list. All roost sites are considered very sensitive and require special habitat management or special consideration by Field Offices, regardless of the species that occupy them.

Some raptors that have fairly specific nesting requirements were not included. Raptors, particularly nesting raptors, require special habitat management or special consideration by Field Offices, on their own merits, because of their characteristic low population sizes and widely dispersed distributions.

To relieve possible confusion, some clarification of the several types of species status is included. BLM Sensitive species, State-listed species (by a State agency, in this case, Arizona Game and Fish Department's *Wildlife of Special Concern in Arizona*), Federal Candidate species, and Federally-listed threatened or endangered species are **all** *Special Status Species* covered by Manual Section 6840. By policy, the BLM has certain responsibilities for all Special Status Species. BLM Sensitive species are not covered by any other "safety net" of status designation. Therefore, the Arizona BLM Sensitive Species List does not include species that are already Federally-listed or State-listed.

**Policy/Action:** The Arizona BLM Sensitive Species List is dynamic, as this update shows. Changes in species taxonomy, information on species distribution, abundance, or new knowledge on security or threats can come any time, and knowledgeable people in Field Offices will periodically be asked for input on updates. Additionally, if information shows that a species needs to be included or removed, the appropriate Field Manager may make a nomination for an addition or deletion with sufficient justification concerning the above listed criteria. Under this scenario, if such a species occurs in more than one Field Office, consensus will be sought from the other Field Offices before action is taken.

**Timeframe:** This list is in effect until updated.

**Manual/Handbook Sections Affected:** Manual Section 6840 is affected.

**Contact:** If you have any questions, please contact Ted Cordery at (602) 417-9242 or, for plants, contact John Anderson at (623) 580-5520.

Signed by: Carl Rountree  
Associate State Director  
FOR Elaine Y. Zielinski

Authenticated by: Dana Jones  
Staff Assistant

Attachment

1 - [Sensitive Species List](#) (4 pp)

cc: Mr. Duane Shroufe, Director  
Arizona Game & Fish Department  
Attn: Habitat Branch  
2221 West Greenway Road  
Phoenix, Arizona 85023

State Director, California  
Attn: Ed Lorentzen

State Director, New Mexico  
Attn: Paul Sawyer